

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-33 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-12, 14, 15 and 20-30 stand rejected. Claim 13 is objected to. Claims 16-19 and 31-33 are withdrawn from consideration. In the present Amendment, claims 16-19 and 31-33 have been canceled without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in one or more divisional applications. Claims 1, 11 and 13 have been amended and new claims 34-38 have been added. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced into the present application by any of the amendments to the claims or by the addition of the new claims. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement is respectfully traversed. However, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been rendered moot by the current amendments to claim 1.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-12, 14-15 and 20-30 stand rejected as being allegedly anticipated by EP 0 238 853. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, it respectfully submitted that the present amendments to the claims have rendered this rejection moot. Specifically, in the present claims, the polymer component P does not include polyacrylates and polyacrylamides. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the polymer of the present claims is not disclosed in EP 0 238 853.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The previous rejection of certain claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Letourneur et al. (US 4,950,712) has apparently been withdrawn. Accordingly, there is currently no outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Allowable Claims


The Examiner has indicated that current claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants appreciate this indication of allowable subject matter in claim 13 but respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued for claims 1-15, 20-30 and 34-38.

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Respectfully submitted,

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